New Technology

NAVO's HUSCy Vehicle Successfully Debuts at 2005 AUV Fest

NAVOCEANO uses a variety of platforms to collect oceanographic data. The command's newest survey technology, the hydrographic unmanned surface craft (HUSCy), made its first survey appearance in June alongside other surface craft at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center's AUV Fest in Keyport, Wash.

Despite the fact that the vehicle is still a couple of months from contract acceptance, the HUSCy proved herself to be reliable and flexible. During her debut at AUV Fest, she successfully conducted 12 environmental data gathering sorties providing sonar imagery, depth, currents and sound velocity to the AUV Fest operations center manned by N3, N5 and NUWC personnel.

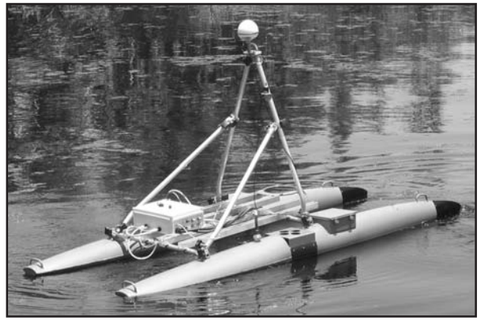
"The HUSCy team members are very pleased with the HUSCy's performance; she was flexible and robust enough to allow us to conduct an additional 7 missions both for system evaluation and operator training," said LT CDR Graham Mimpriss, the United Kingdom's Royal Navy PEP Exchange Officer assigned to the Fleet Survey Team (FST).

HUSCy has been designed to conduct both environmental data-gathering missions in support of expeditionary warfare and also to conduct hydrographic single-beam surveys.

Operated by FST, the HUSCy is capable of autonomous or remotely controlled operations. The craft operates in shallow-water areas where human presence is undesirable or difficult. She is designed to have a low logistic footprint and can be rapidly transported by commercial air around the world and operated from any platform of opportunity.

Developed for NAVOCEANO by a consortium between Seafloor Systems, Inc. and SeaRobotics Corp., the vehicle is constructed from commercially available components and technologies. The vehicle nominally weighs about 100 lb, has an aluminum catamaran structure measuring 10 ft by 5 ft and has a 4 ft by 2 ft cargo deck capable of carrying up to 100 lb of sensors. Utilizing 2 kWh of battery power, the HUSCy is capable of deployments in excess of 8 hours at 3 kn. The system uses commercially available survey software for mission planning, monitoring and data processing.

LT David Colbert of the Fleet Survey Team (FST) and LT CDR Graham Mimpriss, the United Kingdom's Royal Navy PEP Exchange Officer assigned to FST, affix an American flag to the HUSCy before launching it to run survey lines at AUV Fest in Keyport, Wash.



The Hydrographic Unmanned Surface Craft (HUSCy) performs trials in the Pearl River at Stennis Space Center, Miss.

Naval Oceanographic Office *Ocean Frontier*

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Teaching and Learning During 2005 Sea Scholars

By Rich Balser, Survey Operations Support Division

For the ninth consecutive year, NAVOCEANO hosted a group of elementary, middle and high school teachers from multiple states aboard a T-AGS 60-class ship. The Sea Scholars program provides them with a view of what NAVOCEANO scientists do at sea and a sense of motivation and knowledge to educate and encourage the next generation of scientists and engineers.

Consisting of lectures and laboratory sessions aboard *USNS Pathfinder*, in addition to field trips and lesson plan presentations from each participant, the 2005 program went further than satisfying continuing education requirements for the eight teachers who participated.

By the end of the six days at sea, the teachers from Alabama, Florida and Utah were living and breathing opera-

See **Sea Scholars**, page 6.

Brown Is NAVO's New Commanding Officer

Best to Serve as Deputy Oceanographer of the Navy in D.C.

CAPT Andrew Brown III assumed command of NAVOCEANO in a 4 August ceremony at Stennis Space Center.

Brown has been executive officer of NAVOCEANO since September 2004, after commanding Naval European Meteorology and Oceanography Facility, Naples, Italy.

CAPT Jeffrey S. Best reported as deputy Oceanographer of the Navy in Washington, D.C., after serving only 13 months as NAVOCEANO's commanding officer. (See page 2 for Best's farewell to NAVOCEANO.)

CAPT(s) John Cousins of Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, (COMNAVMETOCCOM) will succeed Brown as NAVOCEANO's executive officer.

Cousins reported to COMNAVMETOCCOM in August 2004 as director of oceanographic operations.

CAPT Andrew Brown III Commaning Officer, NAVOCEANO

News at JALBTCX

New CHARTS Equipment at JALBTCX

Congressional Staffers Receive Briefing on Upgrades

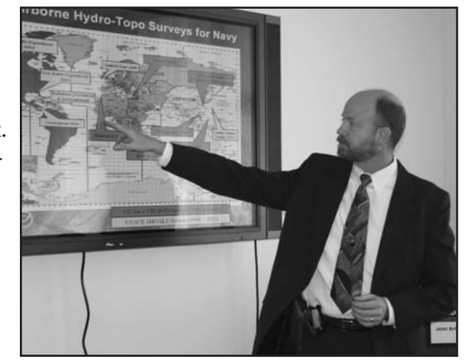
The Joint Airborne LIDAR Bathymetry Technical Center of Expertise (JALBTCX) at Stennis International Airport in Hancock County, Miss., has enhanced the capabilities of airborne hydrography—measuring and charting water dynamics from the air, instead of by ship—with new equipment upgrades.

The team recently tested new equipment that is expected to help surveyors better define and chart water bottoms. A hyperspectral imager known as CASI-700 and faster lasers were installed on board the center's aircraft. The speed of the existing hydrographic laser was tripled; the speed of its topographic laser was doubled.

"We have been able to accurately determine water depths," said NAVOCEANO's Bob Pope. "Now we'll be able to qualify and classify some of the bottom."

That advancement holds enormous implications for the warfighter.

See **JALBTCX**, page 11.



NAVOCEANO's Bob Pope (N414) indicates locations where hydrographic-topographic surveys were conducted for the U.S. Navy.

From the Commanding Officer

A Fond Farewell

It is with extreme mixed emotions that I write what turns out to be my last *Ocean Frontier* article.

Two months ago I had no idea what was to develop over this time period. The current deputy oceanographer of the Navy, CAPT Jeff Bacon, announced his retirement, and I was selected as his replacement.

Unfortunately, his retirement date is the 19th of August, and I need to be in Washington, D.C., before then. The XO and I have chosen the 4th of August as the official Change of Command date.

As I reflect on the accomplishments of NAVOCEANO over the last year, I really feel we have made a tremendous boost to the entire oceanography program. Participation in TASWEX-04, Smart Search-05 and Shark Hunt-05 are just a few on which we made a tremendous impact to warfighting capabilities.

We have had great accomplishments in every area of NAVOCEANO from public affairs and data archiving to operationalizing oceanography. We've made great strides in demonstrating to the warfighter how vital we are in the Intelligent Preparation of the Battlespace (IPB—the new D.C. buzz acronym).

This has been reflected in the biggest budget plus up in the Program Review 2007 cycle the community has ever received.

My new position as deputy oceanographer will allow me to continue moving our program forward. I will be the first commanding officer of NAVOCEANO since our technical director, Mr. Charlie Martinek, to move to the deputy position.

Because I know all the intricacies of our programs, it will allow me to better educate the Oceanographer's staff on exactly what we do, which will lead to more knowledgeable justification briefs in the program building. So, even though I'm leaving this great command after only 13 months, I feel I can do a lot of good for NAVOCEANO once I get to D.C.

I leave NAVOCEANO in great hands with CAPT Andy Brown. He is a superb professional who already knows the inner workings of our organization. I could not find a better person to take the helm of NAVOCEANO.

CAPT Jeffrey Best

It has been a real pleasure serving as your commanding officer, and I'm proud to be able to call each and every one of you my shipmate. I could not be more proud of our accomplishments and look forward to working with everyone in the future.

Keep up the great work, and I expect to hear great things about the Naval Oceanographic Office while working in my new job at the Naval Observatory.

Awards

Civilian Length of Service

5 Years
Melissa Niolet Jones

10 Years
Jason Batchelor
Belinda B. Clark
Tawna A. Cooperider
Kelly D. Enriquez
Kurt A. Giardina
Robert D. Jones III
Donald D. Lancaster
Susan Moffett Parnell
Thomas D. Powell
Wendy L. Walker-Wilz

15 Years
Craig Brown
Kenneth E. Cranford
Jyl D. Hedrick
Scott C. Klingenberger
Stephanie May
Tina R. McElroy
Giovanni B. Morris

20 Years
Steven L. Alexander
Roger B. Bewig
Claude B. Christopher
Michael F. Killam
Raymond Sawyer
Carolyn Scott

25 Years
Mark Boston
Craig M. Cobb
Ian A. Fergusson

30 Years
Donald E. Hutchinson
Debbie J. Price

Navy Commendation Medal
LT Jamie Buchanan
LT Richard Kennedy

Navy Meritorious Service Medal
CDR Michael Hallal
CDR Roy Ledesma

Navy Achievement Medal
LT Deborah Mabey
ENS Tina Billings

JALBTCX, continued from page 1.

Knowing the seafloor consists of sea grasses, sand, mud or coral can make substantial differences in mine and anti-submarine warfare or other hostile situations.

The center conducts hydrographic surveys as well as topographic surveys of near-shore land areas. Because airborne surveys use lasers, the waters being surveyed must be clear. Experts estimate laser hydrographic surveys work in about 60 percent of U.S. waters and can penetrate waters as deep as 70 meters.

The high speed, low cost, quick turnaround time and vast areas that can be surveyed by plane make airborne hydrography a valuable alternative to ship surveys in the right situation.

"This system lends itself quite well to working anywhere in the world," Pope said. "This is a one-of-a-kind resource."

In June, Pope and other JALBTCX officials briefed congressional aides representing Sens. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) and Trent Lott (R-Miss.) and U.S. Reps. Gene Taylor (D-Miss.) and Chip Pickering (R-Miss.) on CASI-700.

JALBTCX includes private contractors and representatives from NAVOCEANO, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Officially formed in 1998, JALBTCX specializes in laser-generated, airborne hydrographic surveys and has conducted surveys in waters worldwide.

FECA, continued from page 8.

ment, obtain care as soon as possible. If you sustain a traumatic injury, you may obtain a Form CA-16, Authorization for Examination and/or Treatment from HR.

- You may be asked to provide additional information to support your claim.

Although your supervisor or HR representative may assist you, it is your responsibility to obtain the information.

- If you are temporarily unable to work because of your injury, keep your supervisor informed about your medical condition, and return to work as soon as your physician allows you to do so.

Light duty assignments may be available if you are not able to perform your regular job and, if so, you must advise your physician.

If you experience a work-related injury, your supervisor will tell you who to contact for assistance. To protect your rights and receive benefits as quickly as possible, do not delay in reporting work-related injuries.

MWR, continued from page 7.

primarily sells merchandise to raise funds for the Halloween party and to help with other special events.

For instance, when about 50 children of NAVOCEANO employees attended the Stennis "Take Our Children to Work Day" in June, MWR provided them with T-shirts.

In its early days, MWR helped NAVOCEANO employees obtain group discount rates for vacations, hosted functions like "Quarter Day on the Quarterdeck" (when food was cooked and everything sold for 25 cents) and sponsored employee dances and holiday raffles and ship open houses on the Gulf Coast.

At one time, Parker explored the possibility of affiliating with a larger MWR group in Washington. He dropped the idea, mostly because of extensive paperwork requirements.

For a while, MWR held regular meetings. However, Herr said, "People just stopped coming." They also held elections for MWR officers, but that failed to draw much interest. "We had elections, and the same three or four people were voted in every time," she said.

Although MWR has its own constitution and bylaws, "We've never had a budget," Herr said.

To fund their activities, MWR sells a line of merchandise including NAVOCEANO patches, T-shirts, coffee mugs, golf and sweatshirts and silk ties. Items range in cost from $3.50 to $25.

"I am considering selling some jewelry the women would like," Herr said.

Parker and Herr would like to see MWR become more active again and sponsor fun events, such as dances on the weekends. "We could still do something like that. It would just take a group of people to get together," Herr said. NAVOCEANO employees interested in joining MWR are encouraged to contact Parker or Herr.

AUV Fest

AUV Fest at Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Keyport, Wash., involved NAVOCEANO employees at Keyport and Stennis Space Center. NAVOCEANO's mine warfare experts were particularly busy providing oceanographic models, environmental characterizations and annotated imagery to conference organizers and participants. Below, Bobbie Thompson demonstrates some NAVOCEANO capabilities to an attendee.

Children at Work

CAPT Jeffrey Best spoke to 50 children whose parents work for NAVOCEANO on Take Our Children to Work Day at Stennis Space Center (SSC).

After receiving NAVOCEANO T-shirts from the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Association and doughnuts and juice from the Union, the children toured SSC, participated in educational activities and visited their parents' office spaces.

IHSAP Students

International Hydrographic Science Applications Program (Category A) students graduated in July. NAVOCEANO students included LT David Taggart, LT Melanie Sigafoose,LT Al Armstrong, LT Sean Yemm (all of Fleet Survey Team) and Vanessa Self (N433). BM2 David Pendley and BM2 Dan Dorrough (Boat Operations) are also pictured aboard the HSL 712, a NAVOCEANO training vessel.

London Visitors

Representatives from the Defence Intelligence Joint Environment in London and the Hydrographic Office in Taunton, United Kingdom, visited NAVOCEANO in June for the 10th Annual Meeting of the Survey Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the 45th Annual Conference of the Ocean Survey Program (OSP).

Department Highlight

NS Keeps Tabs on NAVOCEANO Survey Ships, Equipment, People

When it comes to conducting oceanographic surveys and developing products for the warfighter, time is of the essence, and accuracy is imperative.

NAVOCEANO's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2004-2008 says it succinctly: "The warfighter cannot afford to have time-late oceanographic data."

That's what makes the role of NAVOCEANO's Survey Operations Center (NS) critical. The center is responsible for the planning, scheduling, implementation and monitoring of all NAVOCEANO environmental surveys.

Operating with an $80 million annual budget, 26 Department of Defense employees and two contractors, most of the NS staff can be deployed to conduct survey operations worldwide.

NS Director CDR Brent Clarke took over in April. He said his staff's high level of professionalism made his transition painless. "This is just an outrageously dedicated and professional group of people," he said.

Like his predecessor, CDR Mike Hallal (Ret.), Clarke came from the submarine service.

Clarke has served aboard *USS Simon Bolivar*, *USS Billfish* and *USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul*. Most recently, he was commanding officer of the Navy Recruiting District, New Orleans.

NS keeps tabs on NAVOCEANO's seven forward-deployed survey ships and the equipment they require. Specialists have technical control of ship operations and movements during survey-related activities but do not actually crew the vessels. Clarke's staff also coordinates with the Military Sealift Command and a civilian contractor that provide the ships' crews.

Established in 2002, NS evolved from a staff that operated under the executive officer. The office schedules an average of 70 oceanographic surveys annually with each ship handling 10 surveys.

None of the seven vessels has a designated homeport. All are permanently deployed and are found in waters around the world. NAVOCEANO personnel and the equipment travel from South Mississippi to meet their respective ships, wherever they may be at the time.

NS personnel are in continuous contact with NAVOCEANO's ships, monitoring their progress and helping solve problems that arise.

Each year, NAVOCEANO hosts a Fleet Oceanographic Survey Workshop, where survey requirements are reviewed for the upcoming year. Other requests for survey results come from combatant commanders stationed around the world.

Depending upon their scope, some surveys may take years to complete,

See **NS**, page 5.

Employee Spotlight

DeLaine: 100 Surveys, 27 Countries and 37 Years Later

Had Kenzie "Pete" DeLaine not been listening to the radio that day, his life may be far different.

After high school in the late 1960s, during the Vietnam War, DeLaine left his Hartsville, S.C., hometown and moved to Washington, D.C., to help a relative who had serious health problems.

"I was just hanging around waiting to get drafted," said DeLaine of the Ship Operations Division (NS2).

One day, he heard a radio ad for an oceanographic technician-training program that included free tuition and seamanship studies and paid $60 per week. He applied and was accepted.

After completing the program, a NAVOCEANO recruiter offered him a job as a GS-02 physical science aide.

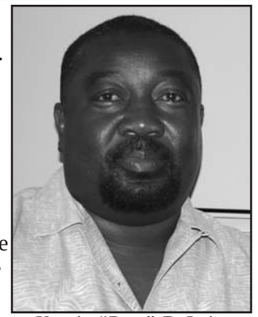
"That's how I got to NAVOCEANO, by answering that radio ad," he said. His first assignment was in the former Deep Ocean Branch with the Caesar Group, producing bathymetric charts used to identify deployment sites in connection with antisubmarine warfare during the Cold War. He served on six different ships during that period.

In 1977, DeLaine followed the office to Mississippi and was eventually promoted to physical scientist. Along the way, DeLaine has traveled to 27 countries, worked on almost every type of NAVOCEANO-sponsored survey platform and participated in more than 100 survey operations. Since 1985, he has served in many capacities, such as lead bathymetrist, party chief and senior NAVOCEANO representative (SNR).

"Over the years my career has had its bumps in the road, but for the most part it has been a great ride," he said.

Now, as one of three NAVOCEANO ship managers, DeLaine makes certain *USNS John McDonnell*, *Bowditch* and *Bruce C. Heezen* have the proper operating equipment for their surveys and coordinates with the Military Sealift Command and other NAVOCEANO codes to meet survey equipment needs.

"Our job is ensuring equipment gets from NAVOCEANO to the ship on time," he said. "We don't physically move it, but we make sure it gets done."



Kenzie "Pete" DeLaine

He is also involved in the ships' sponsor repairs and upgrades and occasionally acts as SNR when the ships conduct sea trials after equipment installations or repairs.

DeLaine, who recently received his bachelor's in environmental science and policy from the University of New Orleans, could retire if he chose but has no plans to do so in the near future.

"I didn't even know people retired at all until I came to NAVOCEANO," he said. "I came from a working class family—I thought people just worked until they died."

Delaine lives in New Orleans East and has two sons.

Focus on FST

Pearl River Survey to Expedite Navy Boat Training at SSC

A survey performed along the Pearl River this summer will soon result in new navigation products to support riverine boat training at Stennis Space Center (SSC).

QMC Montress Johnson uses a digital laser level to record the height on a bar-coded leveling rod held by LT Deborah Mabey. This is one step in a process called differential leveling, which compares elevations of fixed points on the ground to the elevation of a tide gauge recently installed in the Pearl River.

Surveyors from the Fleet Survey Team (FST) and NAVOCEANO began the survey last spring. Resulting charts of portions of the winding Pearl River will be produced for Special Boat Team Twenty-Two (SBT-22) and the Naval Small Craft Instruction and Technical Training School (NAVSCIATTS), also located at SSC, to use for their riverine boat training programs.

Riverine warfare is highly specialized, differs substantially from traditional deepwater Naval combat and calls for new specialized oceanographic products.

According to LT James Coleman of FST the project is being done in conjunction with work by hydrography students at the University of Southern Mississippi, who are now surveying the waters in Hancock County, Miss.

The focus on riverine warfare is a sign of the times as combat areas around the world draw closer to shore and inland waters.

ENS Tina Billings and QMC Montress Johnson compare computer data with physical tide gauge readings as part of an ongoing survey of Pearl River near Stennis Space Center.

Because of shallow depths, sandbars and extreme tide changes, rivers present unique challenges to the warfighter. River surveys provide excellent training opportunities for Navy oceanographers who will use the knowledge they gain for future military operations.

Coleman noted that almost all FST members will be involved with the river survey.

"We hope to complete this exercise by December," he said.

CDR Monroe Relieves Giampaolo of FST

CDR Vincent Giampaolo, plankowner commanding officer of the Fleet Survey Team (FST), was relieved by CDR Todd Monroe on 22 July in a change of command ceremony at Stennis Space Center.

FST was named a subordinate command of NAVOCEANO in the spring.

Giampaolo will report to Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (COMNAVMETOCCOM) as deputy assistant chief of operations.

Since December 2002, Monroe has served as deputy director of oceanographic operations for navigation at COMNAVMETOCCOM.

FST performs timely, self-contained surveys in response to combatant commanders' requests for information in areas where Navy operations will take place or where existing chart accuracy is uncertain.

Welcome aboard, CDR Monroe!

CDR Todd Monroe

Upcoming Events

Labor Day holiday is 5 September. State and federal offices will be closed.

The command will celebrate the end of summer with a **Command Picnic** at the Rouchon House this fall. Be on the lookout for more information.

Come support the Navy Ball Committee's **bath and beauty sale fundraiser** in the Bldg. 1100 Atrium on 21-22 Sept.

Come celebrate the Navy's 230th birthday at the **Navy Ball** on 22 Oct. at Northshore Harbor Center in Slidell.

Safety Matters

Hiking Tips/Checklist

Tips

-Hike with at least one companion.
-Leave your itinerary with a responsible person.
-Allow for bad weather and the possibility that you may be forced to spend a night outdoors unexpectedly.
-Assemble a separate "survival pack" for each hiker.
-Check to see if you need reservations or permits to hike in certain areas.
-Practice your first-aid skills.
-To find your way out of the woods, follow a stream downhill.
-Know your physical limits.
-Return before dark.

Checklist

When planning to take a hiking trip, what you take will depend on where you are going and how long you plan to be away, but any backpack should include the following:

-Candle and matches
-Cell phone
-Clothing (extra socks and rain gear)
-Compass
-First aid kit
-Food (bring extra)
-Flashlight
-Foil (use as a cup or signaling device)
-Hat
-Insect repellent
-Map and guidebook
-Nylon filament
-Pocket knife
-Pocket mirror (a signaling device)
-Prescription glasses (an extra pair)
-Prescription medications for ongoing medical conditions
-Radio with batteries
-Space blanket or a piece of plastic (for warmth or shelter)
-Sunglasses
-Sunscreen
-Trash bag (makes an adequate poncho)
-Water
-Waterproof matches or matches in a waterproof tin
-Water purification tablets
-Whistle (to scare off animals or to use as a signaling device)

-American Red Cross

NAVOCEANO Honors...

Hispanic Heritage Month (15 Sept.-15 Oct.)

Hispanics are the fastest growing minority in the United States. Although all Hispanics speak the same language, they come from different countries and represent a mixture of several ethnic backgrounds, including European, American Indian and African.

Hispanic Heritage Month is the only celebration that brings together people of Spanish, Caribbean and North, Central and South American descent.

Ways to Celebrate

- Check your local community calendar to see if there are any celebrations that you can support. Invite your family and friends.
- Make (or eat) your favorite Hispanic foods like empanadas, paella, arroz con pollo, caldo de res, fajitas or enchiladas.
- Brush up on the Spanish language or start learning from scratch.
- Listen to music en español or ¡Baila! Take dance lessons. Learn the salsa, merengue or bachata.
- Read about Hispanic men and women who have influenced American culture, like Cesar Chavez, Ellen Ochoa, Placido Domingo, Rebecca Lobo, Dolores Huerta and Luis Alvarez.
- Search the Internet for the different countries of the Caribbean and North, Central and South America.

Money Sense

Stock Splits Can Be a Good Thing

Editor's Note: *"Money Sense" is a series of articles dealing with personal finance issues. While we cannot make recommendations on specific investments, these articles deal with general themes and are designed to help you navigate the financial markets.*

Question: I own stock in a company that just declared a 2-1 split. Will my stocks be worth twice as much?

Answer: Not really. Stocks can be split a number of ways, including 2-1, 3-2, or some other combination. With a 2-1 stock split, the number of shares you own will double, but the actual value of the overall investment will not change. In other words, say you own a single share of stock valued at $50. After a 2-1 split, you would own two shares of the same stock worth $25 each.

Splits often occur because a stock has grown too expensive to attract new investors. Slashing the cost can lure new money.

While it's true that a split does not automatically increase the value of the investment, some stocks may keep appreciating and grow all the way back up to the original split price. When that happens, investors who were there before the split can reap the benefits. Here is a hypothetical example, based on the case of an actual split that occurred this year:

Last March, the stock of Company X reached a 12-month high of $50 per share. The company then split its stock 2-1 in May, making each share worth almost $25.

Wall Street analysts then predicted a one-year target price estimate of $49.75 per share on Company X stock, based on the post-split price.

That is nearly equal to the pre-split price per share. Should the target price be reached, smart investors who held on through the stock split will have doubled their money.

It is also possible to make money if you hold a stock when the company simply announces an upcoming split. Investors get excited and often start buying when a good company in a strong market niche announces that its stock price will be going down.

Stock splits occur fairly often, and their eventual impact can affect a much larger audience than just single-stock investors. Shareholders in equity mutual funds that buy common stocks can also benefit.

If a fund owns several stocks that split within a given time frame, chances are the fund's investors will see a bump upward in the value of their mutual fund shares.

Sea Stories

NAVO Survey Team Completes Survey Before Encountering Hurricane Adrian

A routine hydrographic cooperative survey turned into a near miss for members of a Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO) team who encountered some peculiar weather conditions in Central America.

The team was there in May to survey the harbor and harbor approaches to the port of Acajutla, El Salvador, located about 35 miles west of San Salvador.

Survey team members LT Deborah Mabey of Fleet Survey Team; Roger Whitten, the senior NAVOCEANO representative for the trip; Jimmy Villarreal; Elliot Arroyo-Suarez; and Roy Carver weathered Hurricane Adrian, the first eastern Pacific tropical storm of the season, and several earthquake tremors in El Salvador. Fortunately, the tremors were fleeting and failed to develop into full-scale earthquakes.

However, Adrian churned into El Salvador as a Category 1 hurricane with 75-mph winds, causing the evacuation of 23,000 people. The storm hit shore in the predawn hours of May 19, making landfall west of the capital city of San Salvador. Adrian was the first hurricane in many years to approach El Salvador from a southerly direction.

The afternoon before Adrian made landfall, survey team members onboard the El Salvadoran PC-09, a former U.S. Navy PT boat, found themselves in five-foot seas with long swells. “It was very rough,” said Whitten, a 27-year veteran of NAVOCEANO and a shiprider for 11 years. “We had to suspend operations about midmorning the following day.”

When the hurricane struck, the NAVOCEANO team had just completed surveys that had begun in late March. “Acajutla wasn’t in the path, but it was very close to the path,” said Whitten. “There was a lot of wind and heavy rain but not much damage.” The storm’s damage in area waters did not necessitate rerunning the survey.

Despite the unfavorable weather conditions, the survey was a success. Work by the NAVOCEANO team revealed three submerged vessels in the harbor area that had previously escaped notice.

“We were able to get the job done and get out in the right time frame,” Whitten said.

Elliott Arroyo-Suarez, N432, (standing) and LT Deborah Mabey, Fleet Survey Team, adjust boat calibrations at Acajutla, El Salvador’s major port. The two were part of a NAVOCEANO hydrographic cooperative survey team working in El Salvador from March through May.

Editor’s Note: *Sea Stories is a new column in the* Ocean Frontier *newsletter that serves to highlight stories from NAVOCEANO surveyors.*

We encourage everyone to submit stories that other readers may find interesting, thoughtful or humorous.

If you feel uneasy about capturing your incredible story in writing, please contact Public Affairs. We are happy to assist.

Thanks to NAVOCEANO’s Steve Faber (N521) for suggesting this interesting column.

For Your Benefit

Federal Employees’ Compensation Act

By Cynthia Warner, NAVOCEANO Human Resources

The Federal Employees’ Compensation Act (FECA) provides workers’ compensation coverage to federal workers around the world for employment-related injuries and occupational diseases.

Benefits include wage replacement, payment for medical care and, when necessary, medical and vocational rehabilitation assistance in returning to work.

FECA is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs.

What To Do When Injured At Work

If you are injured at work, you may be entitled to injury compensation benefits provided under FECA. Federal employees have certain rights and responsibilities in filing for these benefits:

- Immediately report any work-related injury to your supervisor. If you require emergency medical treatment, obtain care and notify your supervisor as soon as possible after receiving treatment.
- If your injury results from a specific event or a series of events during one day or shift, complete a Form CA-1, Federal Employee’s Notice of Traumatic Injury and Claim for Continuation of Pay/Compensation.

If you develop a condition due to prolonged exposure lasting more than one day or shift, complete a Form CA-2, Federal Employee’s Notice of Occupational Disease and Claim for Compensation.

Your supervisor will provide you with these forms, or you can contact Human Resources (HR). To protect your rights to certain benefits, complete the front section of the Form CA-1 or CA-2 and submit it to your supervisor no later than 30 days after your injury.

Complete these forms as precisely as possible to avoid delays caused by asking you for additional information.

- If your injury requires medical treat-

See **FECA**, page 11.

Navy News

Who’s Your Mentor?

By FLTCM(AW/SW) Jon R. Thompson, U.S. Fleet Forces Command

Most of us can identify people who have had a significant and positive impact on our lives. I would argue most of us could not achieve success without the support and guidance from others. These people that help us along the way are mentors.

Mentors can be friends, relatives, coworkers, teachers, as well as historic or contemporary personalities. Most often, a mentor is a more experienced or older person who acts as a role model, compatriot, challenger, guide or cheerleader.

So who's your mentor? Do you have one? Does the person know he or she is your mentor?

Two years ago, the Chief of Naval Operations challenged the Navy's leadership to ensure every sailor was assigned a mentor. Two years into this tasking, I wonder if we have truly embraced his vision. As I travel throughout the fleet, when I ask about mentorship, I often get the correct definition of the word, but routinely fail to hear from sailors who their mentor is.

Mentorship is invaluable to our Navy. While it is possible to succeed in the Navy without a mentor, having a mentor makes things much easier. The benefits of an outstanding mentoring connection are limitless.

Mentoring essentially links you with a more experienced sailor for professional development. The degree of mentoring varies depending on the goals and needs of the protégé.

Mentors enhance your job skills and push your intellectual development. They pass along information, provide candid feedback about your perceived strengths and development needs and point out opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate your capabilities. Simply put, they push you to success.

I can't think of a single person in the leadership community that didn't have a great mentor. As you climb in rank, you start to realize how important it was for others to assist you in your own career. Whether you were assigned a mentor or your mentor grew out of a long-term professional relationship, you probably don't (or can't) realize what an impact this person is having on your career.

Mentorship comes from many people. The most natural, logical mentor is someone in your own chain of command. Your supervisor is charged with being a mentor and providing you the tools and opportunities you deserve for a successful career. There's no escaping that responsibility if you are a supervisor.

My advice to every sailor is simple: In almost every instance, you should have and be a mentor. The two are not mutually exclusive.

I leave you with a challenge. If you don't have a mentor, find one. I can tell you from experience that having a mentor is in your best interest.

One of the best aspects of mentorship is that it has an uncanny way of sustaining itself. People who have good mentors often go on to be great mentors themselves. The more of this we see, the better our Navy will be.

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while others require quick turnarounds, such as surveys performed after the December 2004 tsunami. In such cases, NS works closely with NAVOCEANO civilian and military personnel who may be deployed on short notice to get the job done.

The NS mission requires flexibility, keen attention to detail and the ability of NAVOCEANO civilian experts to work closely with their uniformed counterparts.

“As a coordinator, the most difficult part of the operation is making sure everyone involved understands how we interface with the rest of the Navy and the rules we are required to follow,” said NS Deputy Director Mark Jarrett. “Both military and civilian personnel work closely together as a highly integrated team to meet the requirements of the Fleet for survey operations in real-world environments.”

Around SSC

Who’s Gotcha, Gator?

When an alligator was spotted in the front lawn of NAVOCEANO Building 1002, Safety Officer Terry Shelby called Stennis Space Center Natural Resources Office’s Quinn Kelly (pictured kneeling) and Dan Koysar (photographer).

When they arrived to take possession of the approximately 6-ft. long reptile, NAVOCEANO’s Donald Ray Robinson (Facilities, Safety and Environment) was poised and ready for action. To safely relocate the animal, Robinson grabbed the tail and Kelly lassoed the snout. After securing the snout closed, the alligator was cautiously released in the Pearl River, and Robinson went back to work.

Asked what he thought about helping remove the alligator, Robinson said he was “just a man doing his job.”

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tional oceanography.

Meeting the ship in Port Canaveral allowed for several fortuitous field trips, including a visit to the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute and the Kennedy Space Center, where Space Shuttle Discovery was in clear view awaiting its return to flight.

After getting underway and checking out lifejackets and immersion (Gumby) suits, each teacher had hands-on opportunities to conduct XBT casts, collect and process bathymetric data from ISS-60, collect cores and sieve grab samples, view plankton and marine sediments with microscopes, listen to ambient ocean noise with sonobuoys, and launch weather balloons.

The teachers and crew also experienced a day at the Dry Tortugas during the trip. A shallow-water snorkel around the Civil War-era Fort Jefferson provided impressive views of the diverse coral, fish and marine faunal and sedimentary assemblages.

Teacher Theresa Ricks dissects a shark while teacher Mary Anne Wolfe looks on. The activity was part of their marine biology instruction during the 2005 Sea Scholars program held aboard USNS Pathfinder *in early July.*

All eight teachers were pleased to participate in the program and ready to share their experiences with others.

"I appreciated the opportunity to do what many teachers only read about and will use this opportunity to bring real-life scientific problems and solutions to classes," said teacher Patricia Gutierrez.

Onboard instructors, surveyors and staff included Senior NAVOCEANO Representative Mark Jarrett (acoustics); Dr. Sharon Walker of USM's Center for Ocean Sciences, (teacher workshops, marine biology); Quent Burge (data manager/ bathymetry); Rory Toon (physical oceanography); Rich Balser (marine geology); electronics technicians Charlie Kelley and Steve Burtch; engineering student Jared McGuay; AG1(AW/SW) Travis Younce and AG1(AW/SW) David Griffin and AGAN Jimmy Frattle from MET Jacksonville (meteorology).

Survey Operations Center Director CDR Brent Clarke and civilian Darla Cuevas were also onboard to experience life at sea and obtain an understanding of how NAVOCEANO ships operate.

The brevity and consistent good weather experienced by Sea Scholars 2005 may have given a better impression of life at sea compared to previous iterations of the program.

Although Sea Scholars concluded when *USNS Pathfinder* reached Tampa, this was just the beginning for the teachers. The knowledge gained will expand their resources, enrich their lives and add to the foundations in educating our future scientists and oceanographers.

"This country absolutely needs good scientists and engineers," said Jarrett "and the best way to achieve this is through you (teachers). You will energize the kids' minds and change their lives in ways that make a difference to the world."

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Leadership Focus: Civilian Community Management

Background

Community Management is a "competency-based" approach to maximizing our organization's performance through the effective career development of our people.

The Department of the Navy (DON) currently uses this approach to help military members plan their careers.

The Chief of Naval Operations initiated a community management program for the civilian workforce as well, enabling DON to approach all its employees as part of the "Total Force" and supporting the continued transformation of the way DON does business and manages its people.

What is it?

The Civilian Community Management office (N11) was established to support civilian workforce development. It identified 21 job communities—ranging from 1,000 to over 40,000 members—performing similar kinds of work.

Every DON civilian is a member of a community, and each has a community leader and a community manager.

Why do it?

Community Leaders and Managers gather data and perform analyses to ensure the civilian workforce uses the right strategies to meet DON needs and goals.

They work towards "Total Force management" by developing career "roadmaps" to allow individuals opportunities to develop skills and remain competitive for advancement in their careers.

-Navy Office of Infomation's weekly e-newsletter RhumbLines.

Welcome Aboard

Naval Ice Center Changes Command

CDR Cory A. Springer will relieve CDR Paul C. Stewart in a change of command ceremony on 8 Sept. at the Naval Ice Center (NAVICECEN) in Washington, D.C.

The commanding officer of NAVICECEN, a subordinate command of NAVOCEANO, also serves as the director of the National Ice Center (NATICE).

NATICE, a triagency operational center represented by the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, provides worldwide operational ice analyses for U.S. and allied armed forces and government agencies and the private sector.

Welcome Aboard

Adele Babin
Matthew Boren
Tyler Browning
Jacqueline Bussell
Michael Cross
Conrad Curry
Mark Femal
Michael Hallal
Kevin Mahoney
Elizabeth Moore
Christy Obenhaus
Misty Savell
Shelia Voss

NAVOCEANO News

Morale, Welfare, Recreation

Once upon a time, a group of NAVOCEANO personnel sold raffle tickets for Christmas turkeys during the holidays. They held bake sales and dances and even published a newsletter with erratic publication dates and the name "Fan Tales."

Carol Herr and Don Parker with NAVOCEANO merchandise.

None of those activities is conducted by NAVOCEANO's civilian Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) any more. However, the organization still exists, although in diminished form, and it still sponsors the annual Halloween costume event and sells NAVOCEANO-related merchandise to raise funds for special events.

Today, MWR consists of a small group that includes Don Parker (NS4) and Carol Herr (N121G). Having survived off and on since being formed in the 1960s, MWR may be the oldest charitable organization at Stennis Space Center (SSC).

MWR started long before NAVOCEANO relocated to Mississippi. It came along when the office moved to SSC from Suitland, Md. in late 1976. Parker and Herr also came south with NAVOCEANO. Once at Stennis, both became part of a small cadre of NAVOCEANO personnel who pitched in and kept MWR going.

"After we brought it here, it was still fairly active," Parker said. However, MWR was disbanded in the late 1970s, but in 1986, the group reorganized.

Unlike military MWR organizations, the civilian MWR does not maintain an emergency fund to help NAVOCEANO personnel with unexpected costs for illness, family emergencies or the like. It

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Update on A-76 Pre-planning

By Michael Hallal, A-76 Preplanning Team Leader

The Preliminary Planning phase of the A-76 process has begun at NAVOCEANO. During this phase, expected to last 6-9 months, the actual scope (which positions and functions are being reviewed) will be finalized, and the cost for performing work at the current scope and level will be determined.

The A-76 Preliminary Planning Team has been formed and is conducting detailed interviews with employees and supervisors to gain a better understanding of what functions are currently performed.

The team consists of a leader, a select core of advisors and subject matter experts (SME's) who have been nominated by their supervisors.

Supporting the team are consultants from Grant Thornton, LLP, selected by the Department of Navy. NAVOCEANO representatives participated in the selection of these consultants who have extensive knowledge in the A-76 process.

The team has received extraordinary support from the command in establishing an office and building a team. The department heads have provided knowledgeable SME's, and employees being interviewed have been very supportive and are providing invaluable information.

The team is nearing completion of a Communications Plan that will provide multiple avenues for employees to get timely and accurate information as well as a process to facilitate questions and answers. Some of these might include Town Hall and All-Hands meetings, newsletter updates, e-mails, etc.).

Stay tuned for more details as the plan unfolds.